



Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Zoom remote participation

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ann LeRoy, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, Wendy Richter, David White, Emily Sullivan

Absent: Phil Lasker, Teresa DeBenedictis, John Pickle

Community members present: Emily Nink

1. Review/approve Minutes of September 24, 2020
 - a. Minutes of the September 24 meeting were reviewed and approved by all members present.
2. OSC Administration/Communications
 - a. The Committee welcomed Emily Nink, who has applied to become a new member. Emily N. introduced herself and her interest in the Committee's work. Members of the Committee also introduced themselves.
 - b. The Committee discussed removing the announcement for new OSC member applicants on the Town website. It was agreed that the announcement could remain due to the Committee having an additional open seat.
 - c. Wendy has been periodically updating the OSC Facebook page with news and will be posting progress and events related to the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The page continues to gain followers.
3. Take A Walk
 - a. There was no news to report on the Take A Walk walking route project.
4. Picture Post
 - a. Elisabeth and John met with the Friends of Robbins Farm Park and prepared a report for 3 or 4 possible Picture Post locations. They plan to meet with other volunteer friends groups this fall to discuss the project. Approvals can be sought this winter for specific locations and new posts installed in spring.
5. Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (2022-2029)
 - a. Emily and Ann met via Zoom with five applicant firms for a briefing session on the RFQ to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The applicants had questions about mapping responsibilities, 2020 Census data availability, public engagement, and what other public documents they would need to review as part of the process. Emily and Ann will prepare answers to the questions and post them as an addendum to the RFQ. Final proposals are due on October 29. Proposals will be reviewed by the Committee at our November 12 meeting. Members of the Park and Recreation Commission, the Department of Planning

and Community Development, and the Recreation Department will also review the proposals received.

6. Updates: CPA/CDBG projects

- a. David reported that there will be another public meeting on the Reservoir Master Plan Phase 2 on October 27, and that the porous pavement pilot path installed as part of Phase 1 has been well-received. The current Phase 2 schedule is to construct the beach and playground areas for opening next summer and complete any remaining portions of the project next fall.
- b. Emily reported that the Wellington Park Phase 3 design has received permitting approval from the Conservation Commission. Construction documents are being finalized and the project will go out to bid in November. Completion is currently planned for next fall.

7. Other News and Reports

- a. Emily reported on the status of the Mountain Bike Working Group. Members have visited the Crusher Lot, Hill's Hill and Menotomy Rocks Park and plan to visit Turkey Hill next. Public engagement on the feasibility of mountain biking facilities will follow.
- b. Ann reported that there have been recent Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals hearings for the Mugar/Thorndike Place development. Another ZBA hearing on wetland issues in the proposal is scheduled for November 24. The project footprint has been scaled back from previous site plan submissions. The wetlands delineation and stormwater calculations will also need to be resubmitted and evaluated by the Town's third-party reviewer.
- c. The 40B development proposed at 1165R Mass Ave. has gone before the Conservation Commission for pre-permitting, but has not yet come before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Proponents of the project have undertaken considerable neighborhood and committee/commission outreach.
- d. A report on the open space portion of the Envision Arlington annual survey has been received, along with a request for questions on next year's survey. Ann suggested that survey questions might be used to evaluate environmental justice and accessibility of disenfranchised communities to open space.
- e. The Reservoir plant survey and management study is expected to be released in mid-November. It should be ready for review at OSC's December meeting.
- f. Ann reported on suggestions from the Arlington List to make improvements at Cooke's Hollow. Emily reported that there were no projects currently scheduled, but that DPW had applied for flood mitigation funding in the area.
- g. The Committee discussed Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 16, a zoning bylaw amendment to definitions related to open space. Wendy agreed to find out more from the ARB and report at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Next Meetings: 12/10

2021 Meeting Dates: January 28, February 11 (ConComm is Feb 25 due to school vacation), March 25, April 29 (April 22 is school vacation), May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 11, December 9

Submitted by
Elisabeth Carr-Jones